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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Yalta Hospitals/ Instruction of Medical Assistants/
Naval and Aviation Medicine/Endemic Diseases/
Venereal Diseases/Water Supply and Sewage Disposal

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 50X1

Hospitals

1. The hospitals of Yalta included the Tuberculosis Institute, City Hospital, Infectious Hospital, Clinicological Institute, and very many sanatoria, the largest of which was the Dolossy. Other important sanatoria were the Massandra, Marino, and the Livadia, which was a former palace. The whole southern coast of the Crimea from Simeis / [redacted] Note: The place name spellings 50X1 in this paragraph [redacted] are not contained in the USSR Gazetteer, perhaps due to differences in transliteration. For example Simeis is not included, but there is a Simeiz (Semeiz) given, 50X1 which is near Yalta. / on the west, to Aralushta on the east, has numerous sanatoria. Large institutions are located in Oreanda, Kurpaty, Golden Strand, Mishor, Alupka, and Gursuf. Gursuf, a military resort, had many sanatoria for military personnel only. There were also sanatoria in Erekluk and Tusler, northeast of Yalta towards the mountains. Tusler had a meteorological station for medical purposes and a bio-climatological station especially for the study of TB. The institutions that catered to the military and top civilians were excellent, the others fair to poor. The Infectious Hospital was especially 50X1 poor.

2. [redacted]

3. The City Hospital in Yalta had one or two horse-drawn ambulances for emergencies. These were later replaced by automobiles which were also available for use by the other hospitals in the city, in case of necessity.

Instruction of Medical Assistants

4. [redacted]

The preparation required for entry into these

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courses was graduation from the "Seven Year" schools. Courses were three years in length and were essentially an abbreviated medical course. Many of the graduates of these courses, after two or three years experience, tried for and obtained degrees in regular medical schools. As a class, they were good workers, more experienced and better qualified than registered nurses in the US. They often replaced doctors in small towns, particularly for such work as deliveries, intravenous injections, and minor surgery, which they carried out without specific orders or instructions from regular physicians. It was a great help to an overburdened doctor to have assistants that were qualified and that would carry out such work of their own initiative.

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The feldshers that did become physicians were better than those that had not had this experience. There were also special schools for midwives.

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Naval and Aviation Medicine

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5. [redacted] medical organization in Yalta specializing in naval work. The leading institution for this work was the Naval Medical Academy in Leningrad that was founded about 1937; which prepared physicians for naval duty.

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6. [redacted] naval school of aviation medicine in Yalta. The leading institution for this work was Zukowskis Academy of the Air Force in Moscow.

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Endemic Diseases

7. [redacted] 50X1

a) Intestinal diseases

- b) Respiratory diseases including pulmonary pneumonia, especially during the winter.

- c) Parasitic typhus and malaria which were extremely widely distributed. Parasitic typhus was endemic in specific areas such as concentration camps, the Urals, and rural areas and invariably followed famine.

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- d) Tuberculosis [redacted] had about seven times the incidence in the USSR compared to the US. In spite of propaganda to the contrary. [redacted] TB was on the increase, as cows were not tested for tuberculosis and children frequently acquired TB from milk. Also acute juvenile glandular TB, which is typical in the US only among colored people and Indians, was typical for the whole population in the USSR. This was also true of pulmonary tuberculosis.

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e) Trachoma

- f) Scarlet fever had a high morbidity and a high mortality among children.

- g) Diphtheria, measles, and whooping cough were also big causes of mortality.

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Venereal Diseases

8. [redacted] these diseases were very prevalent all over the USSR and were spread by the unhygienic and unsanitary conditions which prevailed. Syphilis was passed on, especially to children, by the common

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consumption of cigarettes, common glasses, common towels, common bottles, and the kissing of children by parents, rather than by intercourse. While prostitution had been abolished by law and there were no registered professional prostitutes, poor young women got this disease and spread it, because they could not earn enough to make a living without practicing amateur prostitution. Even though these young women were officially employed, they were willing to do anything to increase their very low incomes. The police made a practice of picking up girls in cafes, restaurants, and theaters.

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The official propaganda line was that venereal diseases were going down, but these diseases were increasing. Economic conditions were the biggest cause. only the old treatments were in use.

Water Supply and Sewage Disposal

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9. The Crimea had excellent mountain water which was chlorinated in the cities before being distributed. However, in spite of this chlorination, there were epidemics of intestinal infections. The sewage disposal was most primitive. The authorities tried to make activated sludge but did not succeed because of lack of scientific knowledge. The sewage actually was passed out to sea and then returned to the beaches, which were thereby infected. garbage collections was not frequent enough to control refuse. The garbage was burned under unsatisfactory sanitary conditions; in fact, all sanitary conditions in the Crimea were always unsatisfactory.

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